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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/003,915	11/02/2001	Anthony J. Mauro	460.2115USU	7768

7590 03/31/2009
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EXAMINER

ANDERSON, CATHARINE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3761

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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03/31/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/003,915	Applicant(s) MAURO ET AL.	
	Examiner Lynne Anderson	Art Unit 3761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,19,20,27 and 38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7,19,20,27 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/2/09</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2 February 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 2 February 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. In response to the applicant's argument that the narrower range of the presently amended claims would not be obvious, it is noted that Baker still teaches the general conditions of the claim, specifically the combination of the anti-bacterial agent and the finishing agent for use in a tampon. Therefore, optimizing the amounts would fall within the level of one of ordinary skill in the art.
4. In response to the applicant's argument that Baker fails to show how a person of ordinary skill can specifically select the elements recited by the Applicant's claims from Baker's list of ingredients without undue experimentation, and some motivation to select the claimed species or subgenus must be taught by the prior art, it is noted that Baker explicitly teaches the claimed species or subgenus. Baker not only teaches the broad genus, a quaternary ammonium compound, but further discloses the same species as

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claimed in instant claim 5. Therefore, one of skill in the art would not have to undergo undue experimentation to select the species from within the broad genus since Baker clearly teaches the species.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1, 7, 19, 20, 27, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker, Jr. et al. (6,559,189) in view of Fischetti et al. (6,335,012).

7. Baker discloses all aspects of the claimed invention with the exception of the amount of antibacterial agent and finishing agent by weight of the tampon, and the finishing agent being a polyoxyethylene fatty acid ester. Baker discloses a tampon, as described in column 13, lines 53-54, comprising a composition disposed in the tampon, as described in column 7, lines 50-52 and 54-55. The composition comprises an antibacterial agent and a finishing agent. The anti-bacterial agent is a quaternary ammonium compound, as described in column 5, line 64, to column 7, lines 12, specifically alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride and alkyl dimethyl ethylbenzyl ammonium chloride. The finishing agent is a nonionic surfactant, polyethylene glycol, as described in column 5, lines 54-56 and 62. The composition further comprises a preservative, as described in column 5, lines 22-27. Baker discloses the composition of the claimed invention, and the antibacterial properties are inherent in the chemicals comprising the composition. Baker therefore inherently discloses a composition

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effective to neutralize the production of TSST-1 toxin and reduce *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria growth, and fulfills all limitations of the claims.

8. Baker discloses the amount of anti-bacterial agent as based on the total weight of the composition, as described in column 30, lines 38-41, but remains silent as to the amount of anti-bacterial agent as based on the total weight of the tampon. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the tampon of Baker comprising 0.1% to 2.5% by weight of the anti-bacterial agent, since it has been held that where the general conditions of the claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

9. Fischetti discloses polyoxyethylene fatty acid ester and polyoxyethylene sorbital ester as being art-recognized equivalent surfactants, as described in column 11, lines 14-16, which are suitable for use in tampons, as described in column 12, lines 20-21 and 26.

10. It would therefore be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to have the surfactant of Baker comprise a polyoxyethylene fatty acid ester, as taught by Fischetti, since the examiner takes official notice of the equivalence of polyoxyethylene fatty acid ester and polyoxyethylene sorbital ester for their use as surfactants in tampons, and the selection of any of these equivalents would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

11. Baker discloses the amount of finishing agent as based on the total weight of the composition, as described in column 30, lines 33-33, but remains silent as to the amount of finishing agent as based on the total weight of the tampon. It would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to make the tampon of Baker comprising about 2.5% by weight of the finishing agent, since it has been held that where the general conditions of the claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571)272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/L. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 3761

/Tatyana Zalukaeva/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3761